

REMARKS

Claims 64 to 72, 80 to 82, 84 to 88, and 90 to 99 are pending in the application.¹ Claims 64, 84 and 94 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested

Initially, we thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 65, 69, 71 to 74, and 90 recite allowable subject matter. We also thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 94 is allowable over the art. We note that we have made some clarifying amendments to claim 94, which are not believed to affect its allowability. Claims 95 to 99 which depend, ultimately, from claim 94 are also believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 64 has been amended to recite that the control unit comprises

memory for storing data for switching matrices, wherein switching matrices stored in the memory correspond to values associated with the frequency characteristic; and
a stage to associate the set value of the frequency characteristic with a corresponding switching matrix, the control unit being programmable to actuate the microswitches or microrelays in accordance with the corresponding switching matrix.

Similarly, independent claim 84 recites that the control unit comprises

configuration memory for storing data for switching matrices, wherein switching matrices stored in the configuration memory correspond to values associated with the frequency characteristic; and
a stage to associate the set value of the frequency characteristic with a corresponding switching matrix, the control unit being programmed to actuate the microswitches or microrelays in accordance with the corresponding switching matrix

These features include most (but not all) of the subject matter of dependent claim 90, which was deemed to recite allowable subject matter. In particular, claim 90 recites that “*each* switching

¹ The Examiner is urged to independently confirm this recitation of the pending claims.

matrix corresponds to a value....”, whereas independent claims 64 and 84 do not recite “each”. In addition, claim 64 simply recites “memory” and not “*configuration* memory”. Nevertheless, we do not understand the prior art to disclose or to recite the foregoing features of independent claims 64 and 84. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be patentable.

Dependent claims are also believed to define patentable features. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, we respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

The undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. Telephone calls regarding this application should be directed to 617-521-7896.

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Respectfully submitted,

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